

Message Text

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21
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:WSSHEPARD/FDR

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

SUR/EE:CBROWN

CTF:CWKONTOS

S/S-O: R.KUCHEL

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R 302322Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS DISCUSSION WITH BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR

REF: SOFIA 1259

1. AMBASSADOR POPOV CALLED ON DEPUTY ASST SECY ARMITAGE PM JULY 26 TO OBTAIN BRIEFING ON CYPRUS SITUATION. ARMITAGE SAID US CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS ON TWO MAIN ELEMENTS OF SITUATION, BUTTRESSING THE CEASEFIRE AND SUPPORTING UK CALL FOR GENEVA MEETING OF GUARANTORS. AT PRESENT, WE ARE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH GETTING THE FIGHTING STOPPED. BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVTs HAVE ACCEPTED THE CEASEFIRE, BUT THE SITUATION REMAINS VOLATILE. WE HAVE SUPPORTED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL THE EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE CAPABILITIES OF UN FORCES ON THE ISLAND TO SUPPORT THE CEASEFIRE.

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THERE ARE STILL SOME TROOP MOVEMENTS ON THE ISLAND, SO IT

CANNOT BE SAID THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS STABILIZED.

2. REGARDING THE GENEVA MEETING, ARMITAGE REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 PRESS CONFERENCE IN EXPRESSING OUR HOPE THAT OUT OF THIS CONFERENCE A MORE STABLE SITUATION ON THE ISLAND WILL EMERGE. THERE HAVE BEEN RESORTS TO VIOLENCE IN 1963, 1967, AND NOW IN 1974 AND IN BETWEEN THESE OUTBURSTS THE SITUATION HAS BEEN TENSE. IN RESPONSE TO POPOV'S QUESTION WHETHER US SAW THIS HOPED-FOR STABILITY EMERGING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS,

ARMITAGE NOTED THAT SECRETARY HAD ALSO ADDRESSED THIS POINT IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. PARTITION IS NOT A US SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. POPOV NOTED THAT CLERIDES STYLES HIMSELF "ACTING PRESIDENT" AND HAS SAID THAT THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS, WHEREAS MAKARIOS HAS SAID THERE IS NO NEED FOR ELECTIONS. ARMITAGE NOTED MERELY THAT WE HAVE DEALT WITH CLERIDES AND DID NOT DEAL WITH SAMPSON.

3. ARMITAGE THEN CITED ACCOUNTS REFTEL OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT END OF VISIT BY BELGIAN CP DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. THE CHARGES THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES SUPPORTED THE COUP, AND THAT NATO CIRCLES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERTHROW OF MAKARIOS IS SO RIDICULOUS THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO ANSWER, SINCE TWO NATO NATIONS CAME TO THE VERGE OF FIGHTING OVER THE ISSUE.

POPOV REPLIED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WAS "A PARTY MATTER AND NOT A GOVERNMENT MATTER," AND THAT THERE WAS NO IDENTIFICATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

4. ARMITAGE INFORMED POPOV THAT LATEST REPORTS DID NOT SUGGEST INCREASED TENSION IN SALONIKA AND THRACE, TERRITORY WE ASSUMED OF MOST CONCERN TO THE GOB. NOTING HIS PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT IN ATHENS, POPOV VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD KNOWN MAVROS THEN. HE DESCRIBED MAVROS AS A PLEASANT ENOUGH MAN, A FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, HAVING NO EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. KISSINGER

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